



## **New courtyards that young people should occupy today**

*A talk delivered by Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI, Superior General, at the Oblate World Youth Day in Aparecida, Brazil, 22 July 2013.*

The Oblate missionary charism which began with a special gift of the Holy Spirit to Eugene de Mazenod is based on a profound experience of the unconditional love of the crucified Savior and is lived by missionaries joined together in a community of faith. It is in this light that we consider God's call to young people for mission. Today the courtyards of missionary activity are as diverse as our reality. We need community discernment to listen to the Holy Spirit so that we can respond appropriately.

Remember with all humility: the mission is God's, not ours. By the grace of God we are called, invited to participate in God's mission. Saint Eugene's special name for our participation in God's mission was "Cooperators." Oblates are cooperators in the Savior's mission. What a beautiful name!

We must discern how to cooperate in God's mission.

- 1) We ask God in prayer to know what God wants us to do.
- 2) We use our intelligence and the diverse gifts of each one.
- 3) We listen to the voices of the poor and study the present-day reality.
- 4) We listen to the needs of the Church.
- 5) We listen to the wisdom of the Oblate charism.
- 6) We prayerfully discuss and debate in community to reach a consensus.

All these elements help us discern where God wants us to cooperate in his mission. We must

also talk together about how we should to do mission and how to preach the Gospel today so that people will hear it.

The Church sees your enthusiasm and participation as a beautiful expression of your faith, your commitment and your Gospel spirit. Because of you, the Church is alive, young and full of life. The Church welcomes you, our young brothers and sisters. It needs you and is rejuvenated by your youth. You bring energy, creativity, strength and unlimited generosity to the Church. Thank you so much!

It is "out there," in the courtyards of our society, that God has a great need for young cooperators, missionaries. In his time, St. Eugene went to meet the most abandoned people outside of the church. This was his sense of "mission." Catholics who were already going to Mass did not need him. Eugene wanted to touch the lives of people who did not come to church and those who felt excluded because they were poor. This same sense of mission continues to animate the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. We seek the people who are forgotten, abandoned, rejected and we try to connect with them and to connect them to Jesus and to the Church. It is for this reason that thousands of young Oblates have left their home countries, have gone to the ends of the earth, encountered many difficulties, died and were even martyred.

This sense of mission to the poor, for the poor and with the poor motivates Oblates, laity and young people for mission. What energizes us is living the Gospel more than talking about the

Gospel. It is absolutely necessary that young people be missionaries in society today. The Oblates who are priests and Brothers have their missionary field, but there are many places to which they do not have access or contact. It is in these courtyards where you, young committed missionaries, cooperators of the Savior, have your particular missionary sphere of action.

- Young people, there in the midst of your family, at school, at work, in clubs, sports, the arts, in the neighborhood, hanging out with friends and colleagues, you have enormous opportunities to be missionaries for God's work of evangelization. You are called to be missionaries to new frontiers never reached by church structures. You, young missionaries living the charism of St. Eugene, are engaged in society in many ways. I will share some of these which I have discovered in my visits around the Oblate world.
- Together, young missionaries and Oblates have built houses for the homeless. They have assisted the elderly and infirm to clean their home, prepare food, to go to the doctor and to help them take a bath.
- Oblates have accompanied young people on popular missions together, making family visits at homes and sharing their faith and the Gospel, always with great respect for others.
- Oblates and young missionaries have gone together on popular missions to encourage and inspire adults, the elderly, children and young people themselves. Blessed John Paul II said that young people are the best evangelizers of youth.
- Young Oblate missionaries working together have formed youth groups to help other young people grow in their faith and as persons. They organize formation days, retreats and workshops, festivals, pilgrimages, etc...
- Among you there are young Oblate missionaries working to protect the environment by planting trees and cleaning neighborhoods of debris, etc. Some cooperators have led campaigns for the wise use of water as God's precious gift.
- Some of you are active young missionaries living the Oblate charism at the university. They do not hide, nor proclaim that they are committed Catholics. Little by little, other students are attracted to them... Gradually, some students sought out the young Oblate missionaries to chat about a problem in the family, with dating or a question of conscience. The students had an instinctive trust in the young Oblate missionaries. They felt supported, accepted and received good advice. A dialogue began and a campus ministry, very rich and alive, was born.
- Young people live the Oblate charism in their professional work, reaching out to the poor and to those suffering discrimination. A young nurse, inspired by St. Eugene, offered to work in a clinic that serves the poor in the most violent area of a city. This young Catholic missionary living the Oblate charism with passion, has devoted five years of generous service at this clinic and has become the sister, friend and mother to hundreds of mainly young, poor and maladjusted people. Even her personal witness has converted other nurses who now want to work at this clinic with her.

Generally all politicians are condemned as corrupt! But young people, inspired by St. Eugene, have studied law to defend the poor and help them. Some of these young men and women have entered the field of politics, a huge step to bring honesty and integrity to this important dimension of life in the hope of changing the current system with more justice for all, especially for the poor.

An area of great importance today is information technology. It is a world that needs to be evangelized and needs to become an instrument of evangelization. I am an immigrant in this new land. But you young missionaries were born in this era and are natives in the land of information technology. You must introduce the values of the Gospel to this new region of the world which is sometimes against Jesus. You must also, with the audacious spirit of Saint Eugene, imagine new ways that information technology and the communications revolution can be used to

proclaim and spread the Gospel. Use your gifts, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, to find new and creative ways to evangelize. Be at the service of those excluded from this territory, especially the poor and marginalized.

Jesus wants us to be the leaven in the dough. Just a little yeast transforms all the dough and makes it grow very large. The lives of young people, inspired by the charism of St. Eugene, are yeast for our society that will bring transformation and strong signs of God's Kingdom.

Young people, I encourage you to work together

in community to discern God's call to mission. The Church needs you. The Oblates need you. The poor wait for your solidarity with them.

An important phrase in the life of St. Eugene de Mazenod: "... we should leave nothing undared to extend the empire of Salvador ...". Young Oblates, inspired by Saint Eugene's creativity, his passion for Jesus, his energy and his commitment to the poor, you will do great things. Like Our Lady, recognize that it is God who does the great things in and through us. To Him belongs the glory. May you journey forward with Our Lady and St. Eugene always encouraging you and giving you strength!

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## General Administration

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### GENERAL SECRETARIAT *Acta Administrationis Generalis 2012*

Copies of the 2012 edition of *Acta Administrationis Generalis* have been entrusted to some Oblates visiting the General House or shipped out to every Province (2 copies), Delegation (1 copy), and to some Oblate centres of higher learning (Cedara, Cotabato, Deschâtelets, Kandy, Kinshasa, Obra, Ottawa, San Antonio – 1 copy).

The PDF version of the *Acta* can be downloaded from the reserved area of *OMIWORLD* website. If an Oblate, or an Oblate institution, not listed above, wishes to receive a hard copy of the 2012 edition, please send a request to the General Secretariat. We will bill your Province (Delegation) with the costs of shipping, only.

Many thanks to Fr. James ALLEN and the translators for their work and dedication. (Marek JAZGIER, General Secretary)

### GENERAL POSTULATION A thesis about Bishop Charlebois

Alfred Kerling, a German-Rumanian, religion teacher in various schools in Rome and an Oblate scholastic for five years, has just successfully defended his licentiate thesis at the Roman University of the Holy Cross; his specialty is Church History. The title of his study is: "The missionary activity of His Excellency, Bishop

Ovid Charlebois, OMI, among the natives of Canada."

In his well-documented 150 pages, he focuses on the work that not only Bishop Charlebois but also the first Oblates developed in Canada. Of particular interest is the chapter which treats of the "Oblate missionary method" in that time and place.

The moderator of this thesis is encouraging him to develop it further as a doctoral thesis on the same theme. He told him that it would be ideal to do it in Canada, at St. Paul University. That is a cherished dream for Alfred. The General Postulation, who made our archive available to him, is grateful for this valuable contribution which will provide a greater understanding of this Servant of God. For those who are interested, we have some copies at the Postulation Office. (Joaquín MARTÍNEZ, General Postulator)





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## Latin America

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**BRAZIL****Gathering of Oblate Youth**

*Excerpts from the blog of Fr. Chicho ROIS, General Councillor, in [www.nosotrosomi.org](http://www.nosotrosomi.org).*

**15 July:** The YOMI gathering (Young Oblates of Mary Immaculate). That is what the Oblates of the Province of Brazil have called the meeting to prepare for World Youth Days. Young Brazilians who collaborate with the Oblates in their different missions have worked hard to accommodate more than 600 young people from around the Oblate world and to get ready for the gathering in Aparecida. They are excited about welcoming some 160 international volunteers who are already in Sao Paulo for this first leg of our pilgrimage. If you ask them who they are, they will tell you with a Brazilian smile on their face: We are Young Oblates!

**18 July:** Now we have one foot in the stirrup. We don't have horses but buses that have begun the three hour and a half trip to Aparecida. . . We will all arrive at the Shrine before 20:30, the time for the opening celebration of the Young Oblate Encounter. Between Brazilians and those coming from 29 different countries, we will be about 1200 participants.

**19 July - Day 1:** Some of the pilgrims had problems during their journey: late airplanes, misplaced baggage and persons and various difficulties. The large group from Paraguay had a real adventure, traveling far to get to Aparecida. But it seems that they are all here and we rejoice to see them, especially Fr. Guillermo STECKLING who is with them. We were saddened by the news about a group from France who had an accident in French Guyana in which one pilgrim died and others are in serious condition. The Provincial of Brazil, Fr. Francisco RUBEAUX, invited us to pray for them and for their families during the opening ceremonies. It was a lively ceremony with much Brazilian folklore, song and dance, which thrilled most of the youth who, although tired from their journey, joined in the dancing; so they were at it until almost midnight.

But in the opening ceremony, there were other things. In particular, I liked two: first, there was the appearance of St. Eugene. The Oblates of Brazil have prepared a film which will premiere in these days. The actor who plays St. Eugene brought our Founder to life for us, encouraging the youth to embrace the mission and giving us his blessing. Secondly, there were the very moving words of the Provincial of Brazil, Fr. Francisco Rubeaux, who, in welcoming us, also challenged us: after 200 years of activity with youth, today, we are St. Eugene de Mazenod, each one of the participants, called to bring the compassionate love of God to the most abandoned.

**20 July - Day 2:** The enormous basilica which holds the tiny image of Our Lady of Aparecida was the site for the celebration of the Eucharist with the Cardinal Archbishop of Aparecida, Mons. Raymundo Assis, who is also the president of the Bishops' Conference. In his homily, for more than 10 minutes, he spoke of the Oblates and of St. Eugene de Mazenod. He reminded us that our mission is to proclaim the love of God to the most abandoned and that, since the beginning, our missionary charism was tied to young people. Four bishops concelebrated, among them the Oblate Archbishop of Johannesburg, Mons. Buti TLHAGALE.

Later, there was the catechesis of Father General. The central message that he wanted to give us was that the missionary charism of the Oblates is born of a personal experience of the love of God. Without this experience, there is no mission and there are no missionaries. He developed three points: how to grow in this love of God as young Christians; how to live an intense community life and with a group; and what are the new courtyards where youth must make themselves present as missionaries.

Of course, the patron of the Youth Encounter is Mauricio LEFEVRE, a Bolivian Oblate who died because of his commitment to the poor. While they were presenting his life story, they carried up the aisle a cross covered with pictures of Oblates who have died violent deaths for their witness to God, those already beatified such

as Cebula and the Spanish martyrs, and those who are venerated as martyrs on the various continents and who inspire our own oblation.

The Congregation of Jesus, sisters founded by Mary Ward, joined our YOMI days. These youngsters are taking part in our entire program. And they prepared a Way of the Cross to conclude our day. They managed to remember the journey of Jesus to Calvary and at the same time, to make this mystery alive with current events. The prayer, the singing and the mimed scenes were accompanied by readings from the Gospel and with reflections on “the crucified of our own day,” the victims of so many things: hunger, violence, abuse, injustice, contamination of the earth, lack of hope and attacks on life...

**21 July - Day 3:** This morning, as well as for most of the day, we participated in the diocesan program with other groups of youth who are preparing for WYD in Rio de Janeiro. We began by visiting the city. Right after lunch, we went to take part in the afternoon program which was an encounter with the other groups, a lengthy music festival where we did not all persevere because we were so tired, and then the celebration of the Eucharist, again with the Cardinal of Aparecida, the bishops and the youth who are taking part in the pre-WYD missionary week of the diocese. In the evening, there was the icing on the cake: the premiere of the film which the Oblates of Brazil sponsored on the life of Eugene de Mazenod. It's called: “Memories of the heart.” A copy was given to the representative of each country so that subtitles can be inserted in the various languages.

**21 July - Day 4:** “The Eucharist is the center of our life and of our mission.” We could say that the center of the YOMI days in Aparecida was the International Mass which we celebrated this morning. It was a day for the Oblate family. Oblate religious men, Oblate religious women from Spain and Paraguay, and a COMI from Uruguay and all the lay men and women from various parishes and communities in Brazil, came together to celebrate our charism. And the auditorium that served as a chapel for us began to vibrate with emotion. Led by our Superior General, we thanked God for our common

charism and we asked for God's blessing and that of Our Lady of Aparecida so that we might be faithful to this gift of the Spirit.

The organizers had prepared a beautiful liturgy, taking into account the international character of the assembly. Everything was well planned and very beautiful. The songs, the dances, the way of proclaiming the Word...everything aided and prepared our encounter with Jesus. To see more than 80 Oblates concelebrating is already a grace from God. To welcome the Word of God with the dances and songs of the youth of South Africa is to recognize a Word that is alive and that gives joy and liberates.

Fr. General called our attention to the Christ that hangs above the altar in the Basilica of Aparecida. It is a young Christ, who serenely gives up his life. In its silhouette can be seen a heart torn open, from which flows “living water.” It is an image of the Oblate charism. To encounter this Christ and participate in his mission of making his mercy reach the most abandoned is the crux of our charism, it is our missionary calling.

In the afternoon, they had us work in small groups to discuss the talk given by Fr. Guillermo Steckling, our former Superior General who is also taking part in this gathering. His talk was an invitation to the youth to take to heart what it means to be part of the “Young Oblates”, that is to say, a youth who lives the Oblate charism.

Later, we had the Festival of the People. Each of the 29 countries represented (some with only one or to participants but others with more than 130) had prepared a small presentation about their country and its customs.

**22 July - Final day:** Everyone is getting ready for the journey to Rio de Janeiro. We all came together to celebrate the Eucharist presided this time by our Oblate Archbishop Buti and animated by the songs of the large delegation from South Africa. Archbishop Buti, in his homily, encouraged us to take seriously our resolve concerning our vocation and mission.

After the Eucharist, some 80 Oblates met with Fr. General. He gave us a challenge: how can we get

youth to take part in the Triennium to celebrate the 200 years since the beginning of Oblate community life in 2016? He insisted on the need to work as a community with the young people so as to follow in the footsteps of Eugene de Mazenod in his style of doing ministry with youth.

We had our final visit to Our Lady to entrust to her what we is in our hearts. We met for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Yes, young people know how to dance and express their joy at a party, but they also know how to pray in silence. After the adoration, we prayed a rosary for the mission of the whole Oblate family throughout the world. I cannot stop praying for a young man who told me: "Father pray for me. I believe God is calling me to be a missionary in the poorest of countries."

After the rosary, we had the closing celebration that began with a dramatization of the Good Shepherd, portrayed by Fr. General. The Good Shepherd gives all that he has to the young people: his coat, his hat, his calm demeanor, his sandals, his eyes, his mouth, his feet, his compassionate heart... now the young people must be the eyes, the staff, the heart of the Good Shepherd in order to continue his mission. With the final blessing of Fr. Louie, which he gave with the cross of the Founder in his hands, we were sent into the Mission. At the end of this ceremony, some of the youth read the "Letter from Aparecida" addressed to all Oblate Youth.

## **BRAZIL**

### **Letter from the Oblate World Youth Days**

*Having completed the Oblate World Youth Days in Aparecida, it's time to take stock. How can we do that any better than by listening to the youth themselves? They prepared a letter which they wanted to send to those who could not come. It is the best expression of what they experienced in those days.*

Dear friends, greetings from Aparecida,

Since you did not have the opportunity to be with us, by this letter, we want to share with you our experiences. We gathered here in Aparecida, Brazil, as young people coming from all over the

world to celebrate and to live more deeply the charism of the Oblate family. We were together from 18-22 July 2013. During those days, we interacted with youth from different countries, cultures and social classes, but were united in the same faith and in the spirit of Saint Eugene.

This experience was full of a dynamism that inspired us, enriched us and also challenged us. Our Superior General called us to live our faith more actively and to give flesh to the Oblate charism in our day to day lives. It greatly encouraged us to see the many ways of expressing our Catholic faith, especially by singing and dancing and dressing in traditional clothing during Mass. Our celebration of the Eucharist helped us to take better notice of our spiritual unity as we lived together in the same hotel like a family.

Dear young persons, we are trying to help you understand this great love, a love that does not exclude anyone and which reaches out to all. During these last days, as the great Oblate family, we constantly and in different ways experienced a saving encounter with JESUS CHRIST. From different cultures and races, together, with the same spirit, we shared the great gift of our Oblate charism. A young Christ, energetic and joyful, was present in every moment. We experienced the welcome that made us feel at home; the multicultural conviviality; a Way of the Cross that invited us to commitment and action as Missionary Oblates. And there was the transforming catechesis in which Father General reminded us that the center of our charism is in feeling loved by God so as to treat our neighbor as our brother or sister.

Saint Eugene reminded us daily to seek to serve our neighbor without limits, just as Jesus announced the Good News to all people, especially the most needy. Attracted by his charism, Oblate youth come forth in the midst of daily difficulties. To preach the Gospel, we must be victorious in the daily battles imposed by the busy lives we lead. One of the greatest challenges is to overcome ourselves, overcome our own obstacles. Recognizing that we are sinners is the beginning of a true path to conversion, handing

ourselves over to the infinite love of God and to an experience of community life which develops in a freely given love that renews our lives.

We wish to conclude our letter by giving thanks, first of all to God, to Saint Eugene and to Mary Immaculate who poured down upon all of us an abundance of graces. Thanks to all the Oblates and lay persons of Brazil who worked so hard to welcome us and to organize our gathering. THANK YOU! Thanks to our Father General who gifted us with his catechesis, his homilies and his presence. We carry in our hearts what he told us and we want to make it real in our lives. Finally, thanks to each and every one who prayed

for us and to all of your young people. With you and with Saint Eugene, we want to embrace Christ and his mission.

We pray to Saint Eugene: that we too might experience that selfless love for the Holy Cross; that we might receive the courage to experience with charity the gifts we have received, even from before our birth, and that our Mother, Mary Immaculate, might strengthen us to be faithful to Jesus Christ. That Saint Eugene, whose heart embraced the whole world, might help us to be a great missionary family that announces the Good News to the poor and the abandoned so that they might know the power of God's love. Amen.

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## Asia-Oceania

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### PAKISTAN

#### A Muslim man forgiven

Forgiveness, reconciliation, trust: with this attitude, the community of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the Apostolic Vicariate in Quetta, Baluchistan province, handled a tricky issue. On the evening of June 23, a young Muslim, Muhammad Naeem, entered the complex of the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in Quetta, reached the top of the roof with a hammer and damaged the cross of the church. The caretaker and other faithful Catholics were able to stop him and the police arrested him. Days before, Muhammad Naeem had entered the church, had threatened the Christians present and used insulting words towards Jesus Christ.

The Oblate missionaries, members of a local "Peace Committee", in agreement with the youth's family and the police, did not want to "exaggerate" by denouncing him, but forgave

him. As explained to Fides by Fr. Abid SALEEM, the next day an agreement was written between church leaders, police officers and Naeem's family members, according to which the young man was released. "We have forgiven him. Naeem and his family have signed a written obligation stating that such acts against Christians will not be repeated." The police accepted the agreement and the young person was released.

Fr. Saleem told Fides that "the young man was manipulated by fundamentalists. We thought keeping him in prison was not the solution: Our revenge is forgiveness, which makes him know who Lord Jesus Christ is, through an act of love and trust. "The missionary says he is happy that "the representatives of religious minorities in the Provincial Assembly worked with us." Bishop Victor GNANAPRAGASM, Vicar Apostolic of Quetta, visited the Church of the Immaculate Conception, expressing his invitation to "keep calm and resolve the issue peacefully." (Fides Agency, 27/06/13)

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## Africa-Madagascar

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### NATAL

#### Bishops reflect on OMI charism

Nine of the eleven Oblate bishops of Southern Africa spent five days together reflecting on the Oblate charism in our lives and our ministry as

bishops. This is the fourth time that we have come together in this way since 2006. On this occasion we were hosted by Bishop Barry WOOD, auxiliary of Durban. For the first time the Bishop of Mongu (Zambia) was with us, Evans CHINYEMBA.



Our time together was characterised by a deep joy in each others' company and simple friendship. There was time to pray together, reflect on the challenges in our ministry and share on our difficulties. Fr. Eric BOULLE presented his recent work, the English translation of the diary of Bishop Charles JOLIVET (†1903), the second bishop of the Natal Vicariate; and Paddy Kearney, biographer of Archbishop Denis HURLEY (†2004), shared some of the more crucial highlights of Archbishop's life.

Together we visited places which hold special meaning for the Oblates in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, among them the first house and church built by Bishop Jean ALLARD (†1889) and St. Michael's where Blessed Joseph GERARD (†1914) began the missionary work among the Zulu people. We experienced a warm

welcome on our visit to St. Joseph's Scholasticate where some of us had trained for the priestly ministry. On Sunday we were hosted by St. Anne's Parish, Sydenham, where Archbishop Liborius NASHENDA of Windhoek celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving marking the occasion of his 25 years of priestly ordination.

Attending the session were the following bishops: Archbishop Tlali LEROTHOLI (Maseru); Archbishop Jabulani NXUMALO (Bloemfontein); Bishop Edward RISI (Keimoes-Upington); Bishop Elect Joseph SEPHAMOLA (Qacha's Nek); Bishop Evans CHINYEMBA (Mongu); Bishop Philipp PÖLLITZER (Keetmanshoop); Archbishop Ndumbukuti NASHENDA (Windhoek); Bishop Augustinus BANE (Leribe); and Bishop Barry WOOD (Auxiliary of Durban). (Reporter: Bishop Edward Risi).

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## Canada-United States

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### UNITED STATES

#### Fr. Armand Mathew, OMI: 1922-2013

When, in 1852, St. Eugene de Mazenod sent the first official group of Oblate missionaries to Brownsville, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexican border, he dispatched men who were on fire with zeal for preaching the gospel in most difficult circumstances. When Fr. Armand MATHEW, at the age of 90, died peacefully in his sleep on the night of June 22, 2013, at the Brownsville Cathedral, there died a man every bit as zealous for the poor as those early Oblate pioneers.

In the internet guestbook on the occasion of his funeral, someone wrote this tribute to the deceased missionary: "How many countless beautiful evenings did you spend with us on a monthly basis preaching the word of God? You helped us to find God within ourselves and each other. Your endless compassion, love, and devotion for us and those less fortunate left a passion in our hearts and minds. You were a true angel among us and brought us closer to God. Like Jesus, you were our teacher, and we your disciples. We love and miss you tremendously."

He died a few weeks before celebrating the

70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first profession of vows (1943). A priest since 1949, he spent many years as a formator in the juniorate and the novitiate. But the cause of justice, peace and the integrity of creation became the crusade of his later years. He was especially interested in encouraging poor Mexican immigrants to the United States to become engaged in the civic life of their community so that they could take control of their own lives. He was one of the co-founders of "Kids Voting USA-Brownsville," an organization that teaches school children the importance and process of civic involvement.

In a statement provided by the University of Texas at Brownsville, where Fr. Mathew had helped to launch the Center for Civic Engagement in 2001, UTB President Juliet V. Garcia said, "Padre dedicated his life to being an advocate for social justice and challenged each of us to join him in the battle against indifference. He was humble and of kind heart; he had unlimited courage and stamina. He loved without limit and condition and taught us to try to live a life that made a difference in the lives of others. He lent us his courage and expected us to do the same for others. He never gave up on a cause he believed in, nor would he let us give up either. Knowing him we have known an angel among us."



A video made at the time of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday gives a good picture of a man with the heart as big as that of St. Eugene: <http://goo.gl/1sgBG>.

## UNITED STATES

### The Hmong say “thank you!”

On June 29, 2013, the Hmong American National Catholic Association honored Oblate Father Daniel TAILLEZ on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of ordination to the priesthood; they thanked him for his many years of service to the Hmong people, first as a missionary in Laos and then among the Hmong diaspora in the United States, the Philippines and Thailand. The celebration took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Fr. Harry WINTER represented the U.S. provincial, Fr. William ANTONE, in addressing the assembly and thanking Fr. Tailleze in the name of his Oblate brothers.

When the Hmong started coming to the United States in the late 1960's and early '70s, some former catechists from Laos approached the parishes or dioceses where they settled. They requested the services of priest missionaries whom they had known in their native land. Fr. Tailleze (born in France) began serving the

Hmong in Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1980, and Fr. Umberto NESPOLO (a native of Italy) took over the responsibility of Hmong on the West Coast in 1984.

Ordained in 1963, Fr. Tailleze went to his first assignment in Laos in that same year. He was constrained to leave Laos, along with other missionaries, in 1975. He then served in Haiti until 1979 and the next year, began working with Hmong refugees at an Oblate parish in St. Paul, Minnesota. In his years in St. Paul, he baptized over 500 Hmong Catholics.

Since 2002 he has been responsible for Hmong programs on Catholic Radio Veritas, which airs from Asia; he worked first in the Philippines, and now in Thailand. His Hmong broadcasts reach China, Vietnam and of course are heard in the USA.

The pioneer of Hmong radio ministry was the late Fr. Yves BERTRAIS (†2004) who holds a very special place within Hmong studies as one of three co-creators in 1952 of the groundbreaking Hmong Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA), now the most widely used Hmong script worldwide.

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## Europe

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### CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE

#### I trust in YOU!

During the first week of July, the General House in Rome offered hospitality to young men from the Central European Province. They took part in a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter by seminarians, novices and those on a vocational journey, organized for the *Year of Faith* by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

First to arrive was Fr. Vlastimil KADLEC with five vocational prospects from the Czech Republic. Then the German group arrived after a 1,000 km overnight ride by car, led by novice master, Fr. Norbert WILCZEK who was accompanied by three novices and two other prospects.

Their first Mass together already had an air of internationality, demonstrating that faith and the Oblate charism do not know national and cultural boundaries. Father General, Louis LOUGEN, made time for the young men and got to know them. On the roof terrace of the General House, he pointed out to them that the life of the Christian and the religious includes two dimensions: the spiritual and the human. Being able to touch the cross of St. Eugene will be remembered by everyone.

Outside of the official pilgrimage program, there was the opportunity to visit places where the Founder had stayed during his visits to Rome. The pilgrimage itself began on the evening of 4 July with a procession of 6,000 participants from Castel Sant'Angelo to the tomb of St. Peter. All of the participants

recited the Credo in their native language in St. Peter's Square.

On Friday, 5 July, the group split up to attend catechesis in different language groups. In the afternoon, they were able to visit churches in which are kept the relics of saints whose vocational journeys were presented in the pilgrims' booklet. The day ended with a festival at the Capitoline Hill. It included music and testimonials.

The first meeting with Pope Francis took place on Saturday. He touched the young people with simple, clear and distinct words. One of his most memorable statements was this: "And joy, real joy, is contagious; it's catching... it makes one go forward. Instead, when you find a seminarian who is too serious, too gloomy, or a novice like that, you think: something's wrong here! The joy of the Lord is missing, the joy that leads to service, the joy of the encounter with Jesus, which leads you to the encounter with others so as to announce Jesus. This is missing! There is no holiness in sadness, there is not! Saint Teresa – there are so many Spaniards here and they know her well – she said: "A saint who is sorrowful is a sorry saint!"

That's it... When you find a seminarian, a priest, a sister, a novice, with a long face, gloomy, when it seems that they have thrown a wet blanket on their life, one of those heavy blankets...that pulls you down...something is not right! Please, never sisters or priests with the face of 'pepper in vinegar,' never!"

In the evening, there was a Marian procession through the Vatican gardens. Perhaps the best prayer that night was the grateful amazement at the endless line of young religious and seminarians, as well as at the beauty of the gardens. And in that warm weather, a "gelato," an ice cream to cool down at the end of the day, was very welcome.

The final item was the Sunday Mass with the Pope in St. Peter's Basilica. During this pilgrimage, we have experienced with particular intensity the joy that Pope Francis asked for in the faces of the young religious. The days were filled with meetings and impressions that encouraged the participants on this pilgrimage to respond to God's call with: "I trust in YOU." (Fr. Norbert Wilczek, OMI)

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### Anniversaries for September 2013

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#### 75 Years of religious life

1938.09.08	06793	Fr. George Croft	United States
1938.09.08	06797	Bishop Georges-Hilaire Dupont	Cameroun

#### 70 Years of religious life

1943.09.08	07839	Fr. Pierre Bodénès	France
1943.09.08	07715	Fr. Archibald Daley	Lacombe
1943.09.08	07771	Fr. André Didon	Colombo
1943.09.08	07724	Fr. Jean Guéguen	France
1943.09.08	07613	Fr. Jean Maboge	Belgium/Holland
1943.09.08	07773	Fr. Paul Michalak	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1943.09.08	07722	Fr. Joseph Pirson	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1943.09.08	07727	Fr. Lucien Wisselmann	France
1943.09.15	07740	Fr. John Patterson	Natal

#### 65 Years of religious life

1948.09.08	09175	Fr. Julien Belin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1948.09.08	08996	Fr. Jules Charlier	Belgium/Holland
1948.09.08	08575	Fr. Leo D'Aes	South Africa, Central
1948.09.08	08677	Fr. Jules Dion	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1948.09.08	08756	Fr. Louis Gouraud	France

1948.09.08	08956	Fr. Christian Hoet	Belgium/Holland
1948.09.08	08573	Fr. Aloysius Kedl	Lacombe
1948.09.08	08560	Fr. Bernard Lavoine	France
1948.09.08	08792	Fr. Patrice Morel	France
1948.09.08	08569	Fr. Bertram Silver	Colombo
1948.09.08	08930	Fr. Emilio Trottemenu	Argentina-Chile
1948.09.08	08556	Fr. Hugo Van den Bussche	United States
1948.09.08	08567	Fr. Adolf Volk	Namibia
1948.09.08	08565	Fr. Martin Walsh	United States
1948.09.15	08577	Fr. Raoul Martin	Cameroun
1948.09.29	08580	Fr. Ciaran Dillon	United States

**60 Years of religious life**

1953.09.08	09570	Fr. Jan Chmist	Poland
1953.09.08	09575	Fr. Stanislaw Cyganiak	Poland
1953.09.08	09868	Fr. Jules Daussaint	Belgium/Holland
1953.09.08	09864	Fr. Daniel Delabie	Belgium/Holland
1953.09.08	09943	Fr. Teodor Famula	Poland
1953.09.08	09580	Fr. Tadeusz Frankow	Poland
1953.09.08	09574	Fr. Alfons Glanc	Poland
1953.09.08	09546	Fr. André Grimonpont	France
1953.09.08	09555	Fr. William Hallahan	United States
1953.09.08	09722	Fr. Waclaw Hryniewicz	Poland
1953.09.08	09807	Fr. Vincent Igoa	France
1953.09.08	09709	Fr. Arthur King	United States
1953.09.08	09720	Fr. Jozef Kowalik	Poland
1953.09.08	09567	Fr. Casimir Krystkowiak	Assumption
1953.09.08	09589	Fr. Jozef Kuroczycki	Poland
1953.09.08	09595	Fr. Yves L'Henoret	France
1953.09.08	09946	Fr. Jozef Majewski	Poland
1953.09.08	09718	Fr. Ernest Malok	Poland
1953.09.08	09616	Fr. Julien Mansion	France
1953.09.08	09539	Fr. Donald McLeod	Lacombe
1953.09.08	09559	Fr. David O'Brien	Brazil
1953.09.08	09543	Fr. Paul-Emile Poulin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1953.09.08	10221	Fr. André Ripoché	France
1953.09.08	09939	Fr. Joannès Rivoire	France
1953.09.08	09719	Fr. Peter Sachta	Poland
1953.09.08	10236	Fr. Yves Schaller	France
1953.09.08	09951	Fr. Stanislaw Skorczynski	Poland
1953.09.08	09712	Fr. Antoni Skwierawski	Poland
1953.09.08	09948	Fr. Alojzy Sojka	Poland
1953.09.08	09588	Fr. Henryk Stempel	Poland
1953.09.08	09952	Fr. Stanislaw Toman	Poland
1953.09.08	09563	Fr. Albert Ulrich	Lacombe
1953.09.08	10125	Fr. Leon Witek	Poland
1953.09.15	10650	Bro. Almas Gagné	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1953.09.17	09591	Fr. Eugene Prendiville	United States
1953.09.24	09592	Fr. Joseph Francis Santhiapillai	Jaffna
1953.09.29	09809	Fr. Herbert Bromley	Anglo-Irish

1953.09.29	09600	Fr. Sean Coleman	Natal
1953.09.29	09808	Fr. Peter Paul Daly	Anglo-Irish
1953.09.29	09605	Fr. James Hartford	Anglo-Irish
1953.09.29	09603	Fr. Eoghan Haughey	Anglo-Irish
1953.09.29	09596	Fr. Sean Hynes	Anglo-Irish
1953.09.29	09606	Fr. Cornelius Murphy	Anglo-Irish
1953.09.29	09599	Fr. Joseph O'Melia	Anglo-Irish

**60 Years of priesthood**

1953.09.06	08317	Fr. Pasquale Lanese	United States
1953.09.08	08299	Fr. Agustin Petru	Mexico
1953.09.29	08326	Fr. Gilles LeBlanc	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

**50 Years of religious life**

1963.09.08	11452	Fr. Franciszek Chrószcz	Poland
1963.09.08	11447	Fr. John Hanley	United States
1963.09.08	11441	Fr. Herman Hostens	Belgium/Holland
1963.09.08	11454	Fr. Henryk Kruszewski	Poland
1963.09.08	11443	Fr. Thom van Zanten	Belgium/Holland
1963.09.15	11464	Fr. Ettore Andrich	Mediterranean
1963.09.15	11467	Fr. Natalino Wan Ibung Belingheri	Indonesia
1963.09.15	11465	Fr. Danilo Ceccato	Mediterranean
1963.09.15	11716	Fr. Pierre Court	France
1963.09.15	11466	Fr. Piergiovanni Gioppato	Assumption
1963.09.15	11645	Fr. Roland Jacques	France
1963.09.29	11472	Fr. Charles Burrows	Indonesia

**50 Years of priesthood**

1963.09.13	10278	Fr. Alexander Costa	Colombo
1963.09.13	10279	Fr. Widanalage Stanley de Mel	Colombo

**25 Years of religious life**

1988.09.04	13102	Bro. Bertrand Evelin	France
1988.09.04	13140	Fr. Pierre Kykéo Pradaxay	France
1988.09.04	13134	Fr. Emmanuel Trần Quang Khuong	France
1988.09.04	13104	Fr. Marc Verberckt	Bolivia
1988.09.08	13136	Fr. Francis Loshington Antonipillai	Jaffna
1988.09.08	13138	Fr. Emmanuel Arulanandam	Jaffna
1988.09.08	13183	Fr. Wieslaw Badan	Poland
1988.09.08	13259	Fr. Eymard Dalpatado	Colombo
1988.09.08	13185	Fr. Ireneusz Dampc	Australia
1988.09.08	13137	Fr. Atputharajah Gnanapragasam	Jaffna
1988.09.08	13181	Fr. Waldemar Janecki	Poland
1988.09.08	13301	Fr. Nkwar Ghislain Kibete	Belgium/Holland
1988.09.08	13217	Fr. Andrzej Korda	Poland
1988.09.08	13182	Fr. Ryszard Kuczer	Poland
1988.09.08	13101	Fr. Epusu Macaire Lakanga	Congo
1988.09.08	13135	Fr. Celestine Mascaringhe	Jaffna
1988.09.08	13245	Fr. Kilolo Clément Mayuli	Congo
1988.09.08	13242	Sc. Jean-Baptiste Mbwilanse	Congo



1988.09.08	13243	Fr. Tende-Tende Chry. Metre	Paraguay
1988.09.08	13246	Fr. Kalonda Deogratias Mukomo	Congo
1988.09.08	13299	Fr. Munuma Clément Mulewu	Congo
1988.09.08	13244	Bro. Ngwapitshi Michel Ngila	Congo
1988.09.08	13178	Fr. Zbigniew Opyd	Poland
1988.09.08	13260	Fr. Priyantha Perera	Colombo
1988.09.08	13189	Fr. Piotr Pisarek	Poland
1988.09.08	13177	Fr. Cezary Prussak	Poland
1988.09.08	13248	Bro. Andrzej Rup	Poland
1988.09.08	13139	Fr. Edwin V. Selvaratnam	Jaffna
1988.09.08	13186	Fr. Adam Szul	Poland
1988.09.08	13184	Fr. Pawel Tomys	Poland
1988.09.08	13206	Fr. Jaroslaw Wachowski	Poland
1988.09.08	13427	Bro. Roman Zapadka	Assumption
1988.09.10	13448	Fr. Andreas Hohn	Central European
1988.09.10	13207	Fr. Thomas Klosterkamp	Central European
1988.09.24	13324	Fr. Kevin P. McLaughlin	Anglo-Irish

**25 Years of priesthood**

1988.09.11	12814	Fr. Joseph Stanley Casseus	Haiti
1988.09.11	12811	Fr. Pierre-Moïse Chery	Haiti
1988.09.11	12827	Fr. Luigi D'Angelo	Mediterranean
1988.09.11	12667	Fr. Koubete Godefroid Iwele	Congo
1988.09.15	12795	Fr. Francis Xavier Anthonysamy	India
1988.09.15	12849	Fr. Cyril Joseph Augustine	India
1988.09.15	12850	Fr. Loorthusamy Sowriappan	India
1988.09.17	12707	Fr. Sholto Douglas	Australia
1988.09.25	12812	Fr. Pierre-Joseph Ernest	Haiti

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**Anniversaries for October 2013**


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**70 Years of religious life**

1943.10.03	07751	Fr. Joao Hébette	Belgium/Holland
1943.10.23	07753	Fr. André Matton	Belgium/Holland

**65 Years of religious life**

1948.10.01	08583	Fr. Colm O'Riain	Anglo-Irish
1948.10.05	08584	Fr. Bernhard Gabele	Central European
1948.10.26	08588	Fr. John McDermott	Anglo-Irish

**60 Years of religious life**

1953.10.11	09568	Fr. Sylvester Lewans	Lacombe
1953.10.15	09617	Fr. Michel Oger	France

**60 Years of priesthood**

1953.10.04	08577	Fr. Raoul Martin	Cameroun
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**50 Years of religious life**

1963.10.28	11550	Fr. Stanislaw Grzybek	Poland
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**25 Years of religious life**

1988.10.01 13152

Fr. Lourdy Dorismond

Haiti

**25 Years of priesthood**

1988.10.01 12768

Fr. Gennaro Cicchese

Mediterranean

1988.10.01 12777

Fr. Mauro Concardi

General Administration

1988.10.08 12793

Fr. Gérard Boudreault

Notre-Dame-du-Cap

1988.10.30 12866

Fr. Eugene Whyte

Lacombe



## Prayers for our deceased

No. 50-60

NAME	PROV./Del.	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. D'Hoore Herman	Belgium/Holland	15/09/1930	Waregem	01/07/2013
Fr. Victor A. Croos	Central Province, South Africa	22/09/1930	Kohuwela	04/07/2013
Fr. Edmond Houssais	France	30/10/1924	Pontmain	14/07/2013
Fr. Alfons Rzeźniczek	France/Benelux	20/05/1914	Béthune	15/07/2013
Fr. Ephrem Pelletier	OMI Lacombe	18/03/1921	St. Boniface	17/07/2013
Bro. Wilson Audet	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	22/01/1923	Richelieu	20/07/2013
Fr. Piergiorgio Piras	Mediterranean	09/06/1953	Maddaloni	22/07/2013
Fr. Ben de Vries	Belgium/Holland	25/11/1927	Sittard	23/07/2013
Fr. Stanislaw Adamski	France/Benelux	03/11/1941	Vaudricourt	24/07/2013
Fr. Christian Phetla	Central Province, South Africa	25/12/1930	Taung	01/08/2013
Fr. Johannes Krasenbrink	Central European	24/04/1936	Borken	03/08/2013

*“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues. We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity. They are still our brothers and we are theirs. They now live in our mother-house, our main residence. The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.” (Letter of Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)*

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